

Application No.: 09/485,245

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.16
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1645

Docket No.: 28911/36128

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 3-6 and enter new claims 7-10 as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

7. (New) A method of preventing self-annealing among random mixtures of oligonucleotides comprising the steps of forming a solution of a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers and drying said solution.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the solution is dried by freeze-drying.

9. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the solution also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.

10. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.